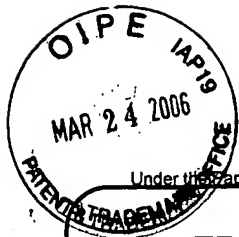


6,948,867.
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First Named Inventor Hussain

Art Unit 2854

Examiner Name Hirshfeld

Attorney Docket Number 38494-00157D

Certificate

MAR 30 2006

of Correction

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

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Remarks

Patent No. 6,948,867, Issued September 27, 2005

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name Lewis and Roca LLP

Signature

Printed name

Lucius L. Lockwood

Date

March 24, 2006

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**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

Page 1 of 1

PATENT NO. : 6,948,867

APPLICATION NO.:

ISSUE DATE : September 27, 2005

INVENTOR(S) : Hussain

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

7. The method of claim further comprising storing said customized pictorial cancellation mark in an electronic memory.

CLAIM SHOULD READ:

7. The method of claim 2 further comprising storing said customized pictorial cancellation mark in an electronic memory.

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER (Please do not use customer number below):

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programs may also be used to create the pictorial cancellation, one requirement being that the software program is compatible with the printer to be used.

The application of a digital cancellation in the postal process of stamp cancellation is new and unique; further the use of colors other than black or red, applied by digital process in postage indicia cancellation is new and unique. Digital as used here is an all-encompassing word to include all current printing processes utilizing computer technology and not involving the use of printing presses of any type utilizing metal or rubber impression dies.

The use of software, scanning equipment, computers, and digital printers to apply cancellations improves upon the present technology by eliminating 1) the necessity of loading presses with oil based inks, 2) adjusting ink levels across large printing areas, 3) adjusting for evenness of ink on cancellation, 4) the need of constant attention to presses by operators, 5) the necessity for the ink to dry, 6) limiting the use of color to one color per cancellation.

The use of digital cancellation may be applied to specific markets. Thus each cancellation mark may be tailor made to satisfy evaluative criteria of a distinct marketing segment.

FIGS. 1, 2, 3, and 4 illustrate the variability the present invention offers. The figures are examples of pictorial cancellations. The pictorials themselves are composed of multiple colors, as for example, the three colors of the American flag. The content of the pictorial may also be adapted to unique events such as Valentines Day or sporting events. FIG. 5 shows a method 500 with steps disclosed here; 510: Creating a partially-designed pictorial cancellation mark in electronic form; 520: Providing a plurality of the partially-designed pictorial cancellation marks to a customer; 530: Selecting a particular said partially-designed pictorial cancellation mark chosen by the a customer; 540: Adding customer-supplied information to the partially-designed pictorial cancellation mark so as to create a customized cancellation mark; 550: Applying said customized pictorial cancellation mark to a mailpiece.

While the invention has been described with reference to a preferred embodiment, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes may be made and equivalents may be substituted for elements thereof without departing from the scope of the invention. In addition, many modifications may be made to adapt to a particular situation or material to the teachings of the invention without departing from the essential scope thereof. Therefore, it is intended that the invention not be limited to the particular embodiment disclosed as the best mode contemplated for carrying out this invention, but that the invention will include all embodiments falling within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A method of applying a cancellation mark to a mailpiece comprising:

creating a partially-designed pictorial cancellation mark in electronic form;

adding customer-supplied information to the partially-designed pictorial cancellation mark so as to create a customized cancellation mark; varying the dimensions of the customized pictorial cancellation mark; and applying said customized pictorial cancellation mark to a mailpiece.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the applying further comprises:

transmitting said customized pictorial cancellation mark to a printer; and

printing said customized pictorial cancellation mark on the mailpiece.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said printer comprises an ink jet printer.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein said printer comprises a laser jet printer.

5. The method of claim 2 wherein the printing of the customized pictorial cancellation mark on the mailpiece cancels a postage indicia of the mailpiece.

6. The method of claim 2 wherein said printing further comprises applying at least two distinct colors to the mailpiece.

7. The method of claim 2 further comprising storing said customized pictorial cancellation mark in an electronic memory.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said electronic memory further comprises a computer digital memory.

9. The method of claim 2 wherein said customized pictorial cancellation mark includes a bull's-eye cancellation.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the creating further comprises scanning an image with a scanner.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing a plurality of said partially-designed pictorial cancellation marks to a customer; and

selecting a particular said partially-designed pictorial cancellation mark chosen by the customer.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the applying further comprises application by the customer of the customized pictorial cancellation mark to the mailpiece.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said applying cancels postage indicia of said mailpiece.

14. A method comprising:

creating a plurality of pictorial cancellation marks;

receiving, from a customer, information and a selection of one said pictorial cancellation mark;

creating, in electronic form, a customized pictorial cancellation mark from the information and the selected pictorial cancellation mark;

wherein the creation of the customized pictorial cancellation mark further comprises varying a characteristic of the selected pictorial cancellation mark, wherein the characteristic is selected from the group consisting of color, size, shape, and image; and

cancelling postage indicia on a mailpiece with the customized pictorial cancellation mark.

15. The method as defined in claim 14, wherein the customized pictorial cancellation mark includes a bull's-eye cancellation.

16. The method as defined in claim 14 wherein the customer performs one or more of the canceling and the creation of the customized pictorial cancellation mark.

17. The method as defined in claim 14, wherein:

the selected pictorial cancellation mark has a blank area; the information is a text message; and the customized pictorial cancellation mark includes the text message in the blank area.

18. The method as defined in claim 14, where the selected pictorial cancellation mark includes representative indicia selected from the group consisting of a holiday, a sporting event, and a market.

19. A method comprising:

creating a plurality of cancellation marks;

receiving a selection of one said cancellation mark;